

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:JKORNBLUM:DHT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 198328

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GE, GW, US

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH GDR CHARGE

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REF: STATE 164601; BERLIN 6501; BERLIN 6417; STATE 195322

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH GDR CHARGE MONTAG ON
AUGUST 9, EUR/CE DIRECTOR ANDERSON COVERED THE FOLLOWING
ISSUES:

2. CONSULAR NEGOTIATIONS: REFERRING TO RECENT
COMMENTS BY GEYER (BERLIN 6417) ON TIMING OF NEXT ROUND
OF NEGOTIATIONS, ANDERSON SAID HE WISHED TO MAKE CLEAR
THAT THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE IN US POSITION ON
NATIONALITY. MONTAG SAID HE DID NOT THINK GEYER HAD
MEANT TO SUGGEST THAT THE GDR EXPECTED THE US ELECTIONS
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TO BRING ABOUT A CHANGE. THE POINT WAS THAT BOTH SIDES

HAD ADOPTED STRONG POSITIONS ON THE KEY ISSUE AND THAT THERE WAS LITTLE REASON TO ATTEMPT ANOTHER FORMAL ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS AT THIS TIME.

3. CONCERNING THE GDR POSITION, MONTAG SAID AN IMPORTANT FACTOR WAS THE SUCCESS ACHIEVED RECENTLY WITH THE UK, AUSTRIA AND OTHERS IN GAINING ACCEPTANCE OF THE LANGUAGE ON NATIONALITY. THERE WAS A STRONG FEELING IN BERLIN THAT THESE SUCCESSES WOULD BE UNDERMINED IF THE GDR ACQUIESCED TO A COUNTRY AS IMPORTANT AS THE UNITED STATES. ANDERSON POINTED OUT THAT AT LEAST WHERE THE UK WAS CONCERNED, THE GDR HAD NOT OBTAINED MUCH IN THE BARGAIN. SIGNATURE OF THE AGREEMENT HAD BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY A LETTER FROM THE BRITISH TO THE FRG STATING THAT THE TREATY DID NOT REALLY MEAN ACCEPTANCE OF THE GDR POSITION ON NATIONALITY. THIS WAS WORSE THAN HAVING NO LANGUAGE AT ALL, SINCE IT WAS OPEN CONTRADICTION OF THE GDR POSITION. IN OUR CASE, WE WOULD NOT IN ANY WAY QUESTION THE RIGHT OF THE GDR TO REPRESENT ITS CITIZENS. THE POINT WOULD BE LEFT UNTOUCHED AND EACH SIDE COULD MAINTAIN ITS OWN POSITION.

4. INCIDENTS OF FRG-GDR BORDER: MONTAG SAID THE GDR WAS CONCERNED BY THE NEGATIVE EFFECT RECENT BORDER INCIDENTS COULD HAVE ON EAST-WEST RELATIONS IN GENERAL. THE EAST GERMANS WERE ESPECIALLY WORRIED BY THE FACT THAT THE MATTER WAS BECOMING DISTORTED BY THE PRESSURES OF THE FRG ELECTION CAMPAIGN. THIS WAS THE REASON GDR EMBASSIES HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO PRESENT THE EAST GERMAN SIDE OF THE CASE AS HAD BEEN DONE IN THE DEPARTMENT LAST WEEK (STATE 195322). MONTAG PRESENTED A PICTURE OF THE GDR BECOMING INCREASINGLY WORRIED BY AGGRESSIVE FRG ACTS ON THE BORDER, INCLUDING REPEATED INCURSIONS BY FRG BORDER PATROLS. IT WAS REGRETTABLE THAT THE TENSIONS HAD ESCALATED TO THE POINT WHERE LIVES HAD BEEN LOST, BUT THE GDR HAD TO RETAIN THE RIGHT TO PROTECT THE "INVIOABILITY" OF ITS FRONTIER AS PROVIDED IN THE HELSINKI DOCUMENT. MONTAG SAID HE HOPED THE US WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT CONTINUED DRAMATIZATION OF THE MATTER

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BY THE FRG COULD ONLY INCREASE TENSIONS. HE ADDED THAT CONTINUED FRG ACTIVITIES IN BERLIN, INCLUDING THE PLANNED PARTICIPATION OF BERLIN DELEGATES IN DIRECT ELECTION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, ONLY WORSENERED THE SITUATION.

5. ANDERSON NOTED THAT THE ISSUE OF BERLIN'S PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS TO THE EC PARLIAMENT WOULD BE HANDLED BETWEEN

THE THREE POWERS AND THE SOVIET UNION. CONCERNING THE BORDER INCIDENTS, THE GDR OF COURSE HAD THE RIGHT TO POLICE ITS BORDER AS IT SAW FIT. IT SHOULD, HOWEVER, HAVE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE NEGATIVE EFFECT OF INCIDENTS SUCH AS THOSE WHICH HAD OCCURRED IN RECENT WEEKS. THE SHOOTING OF INNOCENT PERSONS WHO WANDERED INTO BORDER AREAS WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE WEST FROM A MORAL AS WELL AS POLITICAL STANDPOINT. IT WAS ALSO CLEARLY AGAINST THE SPIRIT OF THE HELSINKI DOCUMENT WHICH LAID GREAT EMPHASIS ON FREE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS. POINTING OUT THAT THE BORDER INCIDENTS HAD NOT YET RECEIVED MAJOR ATTENTION IN THE US PRESS, ANDERSON SUGGESTED THAT SOONER OR LATER THE ATMOSPHERE OF US-GDR RELATIONS COULD NOT HELP BUT BE AFFECTED IF THE GDR DID NOT WORK TO COOL DOWN THE SITUATION. ABOVE ALL, THIS MEANT RESTRAINT IN SHOOTING AT PERSONS WHO STRAYED INTO BORDER AREAS.

6. EMBASSY STAFFING: REFERRING TO HIS RECENT CONVERSATION WITH GDR EMBASSY DCM ELM (STATE 164601), ANDERSON NOTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD NOW RECEIVED A VISA APPLICATION FOR A NEW GDR EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY WISHING TO ARRIVE IN SEPTEMBER (BERLIN 6401). POINTING OUT THAT THE GDR EMBASSY WAS ALREADY CONSIDERABLY LARGER THAN THE US ESTABLISHMENT IN EAST BERLIN, ANDERSON SAID HE WISHED TO NOTE AGAIN THAT WE DID NOT WISH TO SEE A CONTINUED STEADY INCREASE IN THE SIZE OF THE GDR EMBASSY STAFF. WE HAD NO SPECIFIC REASON TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE THE MOST RECENT INCREASE, BUT A POINT OF PRINCIPLE WAS INVOLVED. THEREFORE, BEFORE GIVING FINAL WORD, THE DEPARTMENT WISHED TO KNOW IF THE NEW OFFICER WOULD BE A REPLACEMENT FOR A DEPARTING MEMBER OF THE STAFF OR IF

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A NEW POSITION HAD BEEN CREATED. MONTAG SAID HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT A NEW MEMBER OF THE EMBASSY BUT WOULD ASK FOR MORE INFORMATION FROM BERLIN. ROBINSON

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